

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 10, 11 and 13 have been amended. Claim 12 has been cancelled. Claim 14 has been added. No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested. Claims 1-11, 13 and 14 are pending and under consideration.

Non-Prior Art Rejections:

In the Office Action, at page 2, numbered paragraph 3, claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101. Claim 12 has been cancelled and the rejection is moot. Withdrawal is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, at page 2, numbered paragraphs 6 and 7, claims 2 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. This rejection is traversed and reconsideration is requested. Claim 2 has been amended to recite "wherein the decision step deciding watcher clients of the first client or at least one of a plurality of watcher clients of the first client to be identifier notification recipients according to the change of the identifier of the first client" to clarify the intended scope of the claim. Claim 13 been amended to remove the use of the term "and/or". Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

In addition, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned, if there are any outstanding non-prior art rejections, after this Amendment is entered, to arrange an Examiner Interview. Furthermore, the Applicants request the Examiner make this contact prior to issuing an Office Action, to allow the filing of a Supplemental Amendment that would overcome any outstanding non-prior art rejections.

Prior Art Rejections:

In the Office Action, at page 3, numbered paragraphs 10-20, claims 1-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 in view of Sugano et al. (U.S. Patent 6,205,478). This rejection is traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Sugano et al. disclosed "[w]hen a change is made in the user information stored in the user information storage device, the update notification device notifies the occurrence of the change and also an attribute of the changed user information to the other users who previously received the user information" (Abstract, lines 8-12). In particular, Sugano et al. disclosed

the frequency control file ... is by the change notification control module 203 via the information management module ... notification set by each providing user in

order to define a time interval for updating an UIO in response to changes in user information ... as indicated in FIG. 11, the mailing address is designated as being updated in accordance with level 2

at column 25, lines 4-7. In other words, according to Sugano et al., a change in user information prompts notification in accordance with access levels of the notification recipient and frequency control.

In contrast, claim 1 recites "accepting a request for a change notification of presence information of the new identifier of the first client from the identifier notification recipient, correlating the new identifier of the first client and the identifier of the of the identifier notification recipient and storing the same" in the last four lines. As described for an embodiment on page 23, lines 5-12, of the specification, this feature makes it possible to re-register a watcher associated with a user when the user changes his or her user ID. Therefore, claim 1 is patentably distinct over Sugano et al. because nothing has been cited in Sugano et al. that teaches or suggests what has been quoted above. It is submitted that claim 1, as well as claims 2-9 that depend therefrom, are patentably distinct over Sugano et al.

Independent claims 10, 11 and 13 each recites "accepting a request for a change notification of presence information of the new identifier of the first client from the identifier notification recipient, correlating the new identifier of the first client and the identifier of the identifier notification recipient and storing the same" (e.g., claim 10, lines 14-17). For the reasons discussed above, it is submitted that claims 10, 11 and 13 are patentably distinguishable over Sugano et al.

New claim 14 recites "accepting a request for a change notification of presence information of the selected user identifier from the at least one identifier notification recipient ... storing a correlation of the selected user identifier and the accepted identifier of each of the at least one identifier notification recipient" at line 8-11. For the reasons discussed above, it is submitted that claim 14 is patentably distinguishable over Sugano et al. Moreover, claim 14 is directed to an "instant messaging administration method" (line 1) and nothing has been cited in Sugano et al. that discusses instant messaging. Therefore, it is submitted that claim 14 is patentably distinguishable over Sugano et al.

Summary:

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

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